

With many issues still unresolved in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Good Jobs New York is keeping the spotlight on government money in the rebuilding process. For more on opportunities for community involvement, follow us on Twitter @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. And let us know how we can make this alert better.

Keeping an Eye on Recovery Money Hurricane Sandy News Round-up: July 9-23

The Hurricane Sandy News Round-up is a bi-weekly publication.

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Disaster Relief

Federal housing officials chided Mayor de Blasio, criticizing his administration for moving too slowly in its Sandy recovery work. New York City lags behind New Jersey in rebuilding and may be at risk of losing federal rebuilding funds if it continues at the slow pace. [The Wall Street Journal](#)

The U.S. House of Representatives passed The Superstorm Sandy Relief Act of 2015, a bill sponsored by Rep Nydia Velázquez (D-NY) that reopens the application process for small business loans to Sandy victims and updates the Small Business Administration's disaster loan program to make it more efficient for disaster victims to access relief. [GovTrack.us](#)

ALSO: A summary of the Sandy Relief Act of 2015 is [here](#).

The White House [announced](#) \$25 million in programs to help communities develop climate preparedness plans. One of the initiatives is the Resiliency AmeriCorps pilot program to help increase civic engagement in low-income areas.

U.S. Senators Schumer and Gillibrand (both D-NY) and New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio [announced](#) that over \$115 million in FEMA funds will be used to rebuild 15 wastewater treatment plants in the city.

New York elected officials announced \$100,000 in FEMA funds will go toward reconstructing a seawall and bulkhead protecting Sea Gate and Coney Island from future flooding. [Bensonhurst Bean](#)

New York elected officials [announced](#) \$35 million in FEMA funding to reimburse the School Construction Authority for extensive repairs to the Beach Channel High School in Queens.

Restoration work on dunes and marshes has begun at Prime Hook Refuge in Delaware with \$38 million in funding, partially from federal Sandy disaster relief. [WBOC](#)

Rebuilding Infrastructure and Resiliency

Recalling the effect of Sandy in alerting many New Yorkers to the reality of climate change, Mayor de Blasio laid out a benchmark for reducing greenhouse gas emissions 40% by 2030 during his trip to the Vatican for a conference on climate change. [Capitol New York](#)

ALSO: The official [transcript](#) of Mayor de Blasio's speech at the Vatican: "Modern Slavery and Climate Change: The Commitment of the Cities."

New York City will hold a series of community meetings intended to solicit input from residents about development of waterfront resiliency plans for the lower East side, formerly known as the "Big U" [DNAinfo](#)

ALSO: Jonathan Soto, formerly of the Bronx Long Term Recovery Group working with Sandy-affected communities, has been [appointed](#) Senior Community Liaison in the Community Affairs Unit and will work with engaging faith communities in New York City.

Restoration work on dunes and marshes has begun at Prime Hook Refuge in Delaware with \$38 million in funding, partially from federal Sandy disaster relief. [Bensonhurst Bean](#)

Since renovations after Sandy, the Coney Island Library has launched a number of new community resources including a new television studio. [The L Magazine](#)

Coney Island residents welcomed the reopening of a community health center after it was destroyed by Sandy. [Bensonhurst Bean](#)

Citing the Financial District's rapid recovery from Sandy flooding, some climate policy experts claim wealthy urban areas along the coast are more climate resilient simply due to greater resources to rebuild after severe weather. [Time](#)

The Public Service Commission in New York State is considering rule changes for how electricity generated from solar power and microgrids is sold to customers. Fear of widescale power outages like those after Sandy are driving the push to modernize the grid infrastructure and marketplace. [The Washington Post](#)

ALSO: Gov. Cuomo launched the "shared renewables" program that will allow residents to purchase electricity from renewable sources. [Inhabitat](#)

According to a U.S. Geological Survey study, coastal water levels were significantly higher during Sandy than in any other major storm event in recorded history, suggesting unparalleled flood risks during future hurricanes. [Asbury Park Press](#)

Housing

Some NYCHA residents, seeing a backlog of repairs including water damage and mold due to Sandy, and temporary boilers in Red Hook houses, are angered by the city's initiative to bring broadband internet to NYCHA when many other repair problems persist. [New York Daily News](#)

Gov. Cuomo [signed](#) legislation extending permission for building owners to make repairs to Sandy-damaged homes without being required to file for special permits from New York City. The governor also announced a housing elevation study for Breezy Point, Queens.

A number of homes on Fire Island are being targeted for demolition through eminent domain to make way for construction of a large scale dune to protect other homes in the area. [The New York Times](#)

The Connecticut Housing Recovery Office offers modular homes as an option for residents rebuilding after Sandy. [The Register Citizen](#)

Subscribe to the new Build it Back newsletter for regular updates of the city's progress with housing recovery efforts.

Events

Regional Events

Ongoing, citywide: [New York Free Disaster Assistance Legal Clinics](#).

Workforce1 is hosting a series of information sessions where individuals can learn more about pre-apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry, doing work with the Build it Back program on Sandy related repairs. Please [register](#) to receive an appointment time.

Tuesday July 28, 5:30 pm: [Rebuild by Design: East Side Coastal Resiliency Project Community Design Workshop](#). Join the NYC Mayor's Office of Recovery and Resiliency and NYC Department of Design and Construction for a community workshop to discuss the east river waterfront redesign following Hurricane Sandy. This workshop will focus on the waterfront between E 14th and E. 23rd Streets. Stein Senior Center, 204 E. 23rd Street, New York, NY

August 10-11: The Department of Health and Human Services Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response will convene a Hurricane Sandy Conference: [Translating Research into Practice public meeting](#). "The purpose of the meeting is to broadly share, with interested stakeholders, outcomes of Hurricane Sandy recovery science research and training projects."

Do you have a group interested in helping with the Sandy rebuild? Check out [this list](#) of ongoing service opportunities to help with hurricane Sandy rebuilding and revitalization.

Advocacy Reports

Fair Share Housing: [The State of Recovery - Two and a Half Years later, over 15,000 families still waiting to rebuild. Second Annual report](#)

Association for Neighborhood and Housing Development: [Social Resiliency and Superstorm Sandy: Lessons from New York City Community Organizations](#)

LES Ready!: [Getting LES Ready: Learning from Hurricane Sandy to create a community-based disaster plan for the future](#)

Center for Disaster Philanthropy; Council of New Jersey Grantmakers; Foundation Center; Philanthropy New York: [Philanthropy and Hurricane Sandy: A Report on the Foundation and Corporate Response](#). A new report looks at the role of philanthropy in the response to Hurricane Sandy and how contributions help fund community advocacy, social services and other redevelopment planning processes.

Union of Concerned Scientists: [Encroaching Tides: How Sea Level Rise and Tidal Flooding Threaten U.S. East and Gulf Coast Communities over the Next 30 Years](#)

The Center for New York City Neighborhoods: [Rising Tides, Rising Costs](#)

[FloodHelpNY](#) is a dynamic map that allows users to find out what their flood insurance rate will be when new federal flood maps are available in 2016 and provides links to information on purchasing flood insurance.

For more advocacy resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

Federal, State & Local Resources

[One New York: The Plan for a Strong and Just City](#)

[National Flood Insurance Program and Mitigation Resource List](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller: [Audit Report on the Administration of the New York City Build It Back Single Family Program By the Mayor's Office of Housing Recovery Operations](#)

U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General audit: [Superstorm Sandy National Emergency Grants: ETA Awarded Funds Promptly, But Could Improve Grant Modification and Eligibility Verification Processes](#)

[Building the Knowledge Base for Climate Resiliency: New York City Panel on Climate Change 2015 Report](#)

The Army Corps of Engineers: [North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study Report and Related Documents](#)

Governor's Office of Storm Recovery: [New York Rising 2012-2014](#)

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services: [Primary Protection: Enhancing Health care Resilience for a Changing Climate](#)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development Office of the Inspector General audit: [The City of New York, Office of Management and Budget, administration of CDBG -DR Assistance Funds awarded to the city.](#)

Northeast-Midwest Institute: [Building a Climate-Resilient Great Lakes: Federal Resources and Assistance for State and Local Governments](#)

New York City Economic Development Corporation and New York City Department of City Planning: [Water Street: Transforming Water Street's Privately Owned Public Spaces \(POPS\)](#)

Office of the New York City Comptroller, [On the Frontlines: \\$129 billion in property at risk from flood waters](#)

ALSO: Good Jobs New York provides a critique of the federal Task Force recommendations in a [three-part blog series](#).

For more resources, visit Good Jobs New York's [Keeping an Eye on Hurricane Sandy Recovery Money](#)

We'd love to hear from you!

Check out our resources on Hurricane Sandy money at our website. Or follow us on Twitter: @GoodJobsNewYork #EyeOnSandyMoney. Please forward your suggestions on how we can make this round-up more useful to you in your work.

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